



## Judicial Council Considers Judgeships

**A**t the meeting held on August 28, 2003, the Judicial Council recommended new superior court judgeships for six judicial circuits, ranked in order of need: **1. Gwinnett (9th judge), 2. Southern, 3. Cherokee, 4. Flint, 5. Coweta, and 6. Gwinnett (10th judge).** These recommendations will be forwarded to the Governor and the legislature. Decisions regarding new judgeships are based on a number of factors including: weighted caseload, jury trials per judge, population per judge, etc. Caseload data is compiled each year by the Research Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts. ⚖



*Standing (l-r): Judge Robin Nash; Judge Marion Guess; Chief Judge J.D. Smith; Judge John Salter; Judge Haynes Henton Townsend; Judge George Kreeger; Judge Wallace Cato; Judge Fred Bishop; Judge Michael Karpf; Judge Hal Craig; Judge H. Gibbs Flanders; Judge Edward Carriere.*

*Seated (l-r): Presiding Judge John H. Ruffin; Judge Martha Christian; Judge Elizabeth Long; Judge Peggy Walker; Chief Justice Norman S. Fletcher; Judge Susan Tate; Judge Linda Warren Hunter; Judge Marvin Sorrells; Judge Bryant Culpepper; Judge Walter C. McMillan. 8/28/03*

*Members not pictured: Presiding Judge Leah Ward Sears; Judge Phillip West; Judge Jerry Day.*

## Website Showcases New Look

**T**here's a new look to the official website of the Judicial Branch of Georgia.

Webmaster Brian Collins of the AOC debuted the changes on October 1, 2003 at [georgiacourts.org](http://georgiacourts.org)

"The site was redesigned with the user in mind.

It looks dramatically different. It is easily navigable and stays anchored in the center of

the web browser," Mr. Collins said, noting a few of the changes.



### *Navigating the Site*

The information on [georgiacourts.org](http://georgiacourts.org) has been reorganized to facilitate quicker navigation. Cascading menus for courts, court forms, agencies, councils, AOC services, and links increase the

usability of the site. Information

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# People, Places and Events ...

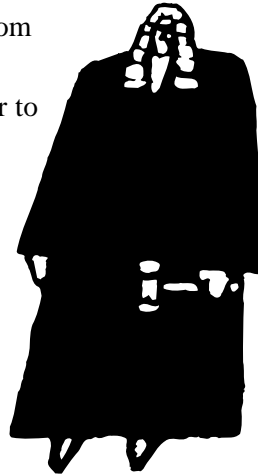
## *In Memoriam*

✱ **Judge Richard S. (Stan) Gault** of Cumming died suddenly on July 23, 2003. Judge Gault was appointed to the bench of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit on June 18, 1984 by Gov. Joe Frank Harris. He was currently Chief Judge of the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit which was created out of the Blue Ridge Circuit. During his distinguished career, Judge Gault served on the Judicial Council and as president of the Council of Superior Court Judges. He was a graduate of US Air Force Academy and the Emory University School of Law. Judge Gault served as judge of the State Court of Cherokee and Forsyth Counties prior to his appointment to the superior court bench.

✱ **Senior Judge Robert E. Flournoy, Jr.** of Marietta died on August 10, 2003 at the age of 72. Judge Flournoy served as a superior court judge of the Cobb Judicial Circuit for 14 years prior to his retirement in 2001. He was a graduate of Emory University and the University of Georgia School of Law. In addition to his judicial service, Judge Flournoy served in the Georgia General Assembly and as Mayor of Marietta.

✱ **Senior Judge William H. Alexander**, formerly a judge of the Fulton County Superior Court, died August 17, 2003 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Judge Alexander retired from the bench in 1996 after 11

years of service. He was a graduate of Fort Valley State University and the University of Michigan School of Law. He earned an LL.M degree from Georgetown University. Prior to his appointment to the superior court bench, Judge Alexander served on the City Court of Atlanta, the Criminal Court of Fulton County and the State Court of Fulton County.



✱ **Judge Dan F. Pierce**, Chief Magistrate of Walton County, died on July 29, 2003, after a long illness. Judge Pierce was appointed to the bench by Probate Court Judge Greg Adams in 1983.

## *Retirements*

✱ Gwinnett County Court Administrator **Arthur V. O'Neill** retired on September 15, 2003. **Mr. Philip M. Boudewyns** has been hired as the new court administrator for Gwinnett County.

## *Resignation*

✱ **Judge David M. Fuller**, Gwinnett County State Court, resigned September 1, 2003, to return to private practice.

## *Appointments*

✱ At a swearing-in ceremony held September 2, in the Senate Chambers of the State Capitol, Governor Sonny Perdue administered the oath of office to **Judge William A. Fears** of the Towaliga Judicial Circuit. Judge Fears fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Chief Judge E. Byron Smith.

**Judge Bernard E. "Gene" Roberts, III** appointed by Gov. Perdue to the State Court of Hall County was also sworn-in on September 2. Judge Roberts formerly served as Chief Magistrate in Hall County.

✱ Swearing-in ceremonies were held on September 18 in honor of **Judge Michael Annis** of the Augusta Judicial Circuit and **Judge Craig L. Schwall** of the Fulton County State Court. Both were recently appointed to the bench by Gov. Perdue. Judge Annis fills the seat vacated by the retirement of Judge Robert Allgood. Judge Schwall's seat was created by the General Assembly earlier this year.

## *Judicial Council*

The next meeting of the Judicial Council will be held on

**Thursday, December 4, 2003**

at the

**Four Seasons Hotel**

75 Fourteenth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia

# People, Places and Events ...

## *Executive Search*

✱ The **Georgia Public Defender Standards Council** is seeking applications for its Executive Director position. Qualifications include: significant experience in indigent defense and the ability to manage a large law practice. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, a resume and at least five references to Director Search, Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, 104 Marietta Street, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303. Applications are due by November 10, 2003.

## *Of Note*

✱ **Ms. Holly Sparrow**, Deputy Administrator, Georgia Court of Appeals, recently attended the annual seminar of the Council of Appellate Staff Attorneys. The conference, sponsored by the Judicial Division of the American Bar

Association, was held in Charleston, South Carolina, July 14-19, 2003.

Ms. Sparrow was awarded a scholarship by the State Justice Institute to attend the event.

✱ **Supreme Court Justice Robert Benham** spoke at the graduation ceremony

for the Carroll County Drug Court held August 14, 2003. The event at the Carrollton Cultural Arts



Center was presided over by **Judge Dennis Blackmon**, Carroll County Magistrate Court.

Also attending: **Judge Daniel Camp**, Carroll County Juvenile Court; **Judge Maryellen Simmons**, Carroll County Magistrate Court; and **Judge Jeanette Little**, State Court of Troup County. ⚖️

**The 2003-2004 Georgia Courts Directory is now available.**

**Purchase extra copies for your office today.**

**Call Ashley Stollar at 404-656-6783 for more information.**

## Website Showcases New Look cont.

can also be accessed by links at the bottom of the page. A short list of featured items and quick links for frequently requested items also assist the user.

While the site remains at [georgiacourts.org](http://georgiacourts.org) users will find that URLs have changed. Items that have been bookmarked should be updated. The location of individual court websites has been changed to

[georgiacourts.org/courts/](http://georgiacourts.org/courts/) and council websites are now located at [georgiacourts.org/councils/](http://georgiacourts.org/councils/)

### **Other Enhancements**

If you can't find what you're looking for through the menus, a search engine, powered by Google™, can find it for you. Searches can be made of [georgiacourts.org](http://georgiacourts.org) or the web itself. The

links feature has been consolidated and enhanced to include a better selection of state-wide and national links for legal and judicial sites.

The site is best viewed with Internet Explorer and Netscape 4.0 or better.

For questions or comments regarding [www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org) contact Mr. Brian Collins at 404-656-5171 or [collinsb@gaaoc.us](mailto:collinsb@gaaoc.us) ⚖️

## Randolph, Clay, Quitman Counties: Pooling Resources Works for Drug Court

**C**an a drug court be effective even in a poor, sparsely populated rural area with few local resources? By drawing on the resources of other state agencies, Chief Judge Joe C. Bishop, Pataula Judicial Circuit, has demonstrated that it can.

Two years ago, Judge Bishop was approached about starting a drug court by New Horizons Community Service Board. New Horizons provides mental health



Judge Joe C. Bishop

and substance abuse services in eight west central Georgia counties with funds allocated through the DHR Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Addictive Diseases.

New Horizons offered to open up space in its program for individuals referred by Judge Bishop's court. Today this drug court accepts adult felony drug offenders in Randolph, Clay and Quitman counties. For the initial year, Judge Bishop operated the court with no outside funding. The Council of Superior Court Judges now absorbs some of the cost.

### Referrals

The local District Attorney and law enforcement screen drug offenders and make referrals to drug court. "I set it up that way because if they don't support someone going in, the program won't work," said Judge Bishop. Those selected are referred to New Horizons for further screening. New Horizons staff works as a team with the judge, the DA, a probation officer and the defense attorney.

New Horizons provides an intensive two-year outpatient treatment program for drug court clients. The program offers individual or group counseling and provides case management, including assistance in finding housing or a job, and medical care, according to Michael Giglio, Director of New Horizons in Randolph County.

### Sanctions

Drug court is held once a month, or as necessary. Before the hearing, the drug court team meets to discuss the individual's progress and any issues that need to be addressed. Participants do not automatically flunk out of the program if they fail a drug test. "You have got to understand that people who have been using drugs for 20 or 30 years will keep using. So we have a graduated sentencing. For the first relapse, they get a week in jail; for the second, two weeks. For the third, they go to the detention center for up to 24 months," Judge Bishop stated.

"The goal is to get people off drugs. I don't think sending them to prison works. The best candidates are people who are sick and tired of being on drugs."

**"The goal is to get people off drugs. I don't think sending them to prison works.... The best candidates are people who are sick and tired of being on drugs."**

So far, 16 individuals have participated in the drug court program, according to Mr. Giglio. Eight individuals are still working their way to sobriety and three have successfully graduated

and are gainfully employed.

"Judge Bishop is an excellent judge. We work well together to help these people," Giglio said.

For further information on drug courts, contact James Banks of the AOC at 404-463-4155 or Jane Martin of the AOC at 404-463-4266. ☞



# Seminole County: Courtroom Evidence Presentation System

A delegation from the Alabama courts recently visited the courtroom of Judge Ronnie Joe Lane of Donalsonville to view the high-tech evidence presentation system.

The group from Alabama included Mr. Jeffery C. Duffey, President of the Montgomery County Bar Association; Judge Gene Reese, Circuit Judge for Alabama's 15th Circuit; Mr. Bob Merrill, 15th Circuit Court Administrator; Ms. Becki R. Goggins, The Sentencing Institute at Auburn University/Montgomery; Ms. Suzanne Duffey, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Bar Association; and Mr. Jerry Baxley of IT-Lex, a Montgomery consulting firm.

Victor L. Webb, AOC Field Service Technician for the Second JAD, demonstrated the capabilities of the system, which was designed by Micheal Marlowe, CEO of NSync Inc. in Norcross. Mr. Webb noted that the project was funded by the Council of Superior Court Judges, through the efforts of DCA, John E. Cowart, Jr.

The Seminole County system consists of a sophisticated electronic switching device attached to a VCR, an overhead camera, audio cassette and computer connection, all linked to 12 LCD flat-screen monitors.

Monitors are placed in the jury box adjacent to each juror's chair, at each counsel table, and at the bench. Touchscreen monitors on the witness stand and lectern allow a witness or attorney to place an arrow or make annotations on the screen to emphasize a particular feature of a document or piece of evidence.

"The system is especially valuable in cases that involve a lot of documents or photographs, because it is not necessary to show each juror the evidence individually. They all see the same thing on their monitors," Judge Lane told the visitors. "You can save at least two days on a complicated trial because you go through witnesses and evidence much quicker."

The system also allows jurors to view video evi-

dence and hear audiotapes. An overhead camera can be zoomed-in on evidence like fingerprints so that an enlargement is displayed on the monitors. A lapel microphone can be worn by a witness and is useful in abuse or rape cases to pick up otherwise inaudible testimony, Judge Lane said.

A special feature enables the judge to control what the jury views or hears. At the push of a button, the judge can black out the monitors to preview evidence before the jury sees it. He can

also switch off microphones to enable him to have private sidebar conferences with the parties. The judge also has access to the Internet and legal references like Westlaw and LexisNexis at the bench.

According to Mr. Marlowe, the cost of the system is around \$22,000. Mr. Cowart noted that similar systems are being installed in Terrell and Early counties. Currently 11 of the 27 counties in the 2nd District have evidence presentation systems.

"Attorneys can be trained to use the system in about one hour. In fact, some judges like it so much, they insist that all attorneys who appear before them use it," Mr. Cowart said. ☺



**Vic Webb, AOC, (left) discusses the presentation system in Judge Lane's courtroom. The visitors from Alabama (below) view the system from the jury box.**



District Spotlight: 2nd JAD

# Supreme Court Reviews Judicial Campaign Rule

**T**he Supreme Court of Georgia is requesting public comment on changes the Judicial Qualifications Commission (JQC) has proposed to rules governing judicial elections and disciplinary procedures. The public has until October 20, 2003 to respond.

## Campaign Conduct

The changes would prohibit judicial candidates, including incumbents, from ordering subordinates to do things that the candidates themselves may not do.

Candidates also would be barred from making statements in the election campaign on issues likely to come before the court.

Another change would ban candidates from knowingly or “with reckless disregard” using or “participating in the publication of” false statements about themselves or their opponents. Candidates would be responsible for the content of any statement or ad published by a campaign committee, if they knew of it before it was released.

The proposed rules would also, for the first time, allow candidates for judgeships, including incumbents, to personally solicit campaign contributions and endorsements.

## Complaints

Procedures for handling complaints about judicial elections under Rule 27 would also be changed. Under the proposal, any complaint that a judicial candidate was “facially” violating Canon 7 rules would be sent immediately to a Special Committee.

If the Committee believed more investigation was needed, it would request confidential written responses

from both the candidate and the complaining party and share them with both parties. The identity of the complainant would be kept confidential. If the allegations were not substantiated, the Committee would dismiss the complaint. If they appeared to have merit, a public state-

ment of the apparent violations would be released to both parties, and the matter would be referred to the full JQC for action.

## Comments

The full text of the changes can be viewed on the Court’s website, <http://www2.state.ga.us/Courts/Supreme/> under Recent Press Releases. Comments should be sent by mail to: Sherie M. Welch, Clerk of the Supreme Court, 244 Washington Street, SW, Room 572, Atlanta, GA 30334. ☞



## Spangenberg Report on Alabama v. Shelton

**T**he Commission on Indigent Defense has accepted a study on legal representation for defendants who face misdemeanor charges that carry the possibility of imprisonment. The study found many courts are confused about how to make sure these defendants get adequate legal advice.

The study, prepared by The Spangenberg Group, was based on site visits and interviews with judges and court personnel in 19 Georgia counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Bulloch, Chatham, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Dodge, Dougherty, Floyd, Fulton, Habersham, Hall, Houston, Lowndes, McDuffie, Richmond, Spalding and Toombs. These counties represent approximately 45% of the state’s population.

The complete study, *Status of Indigent Defense in Georgia: A Study for Chief Justice’s Commission on Indigent Defense Part II: Analysis of Implementing Alabama v. Shelton in Georgia*, can be found on the AOC website, [www.georgiacourts.org](http://www.georgiacourts.org) ☞

## Georgia Public Defender Standards Council Begins Work

**T**he Georgia Public Defender Standards Council, created by the Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003, will replace the Georgia Indigent Defense Council (GIDC) in January 2004.

The GPDSC elected its first officers at its organizational meeting in Atlanta on August 11, 2003.

The Council will be chaired by **Emmet J. Bondurant**, Atlanta, Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore LLP, **C. Wilson DuBose**, Madison, Winkler DuBose & Davis LLC, will serve as Vice Chair. **V. Natasha Perdew Silas**, Atlanta, Staff Attorney, Federal Defender Program, Inc., will serve as Secretary of the Board.

Other members of the Council include:

Judge Michael E. Hancock  
Michele M. Henderson  
Edward Hine, Jr.  
Paul M. Kurtz  
Judge Willie E. Lockette  
E. Wycliffe Orr, Sr.  
Evelyn Turner Pugh  
Gerald P. Word

The Georgia Public Defender Standards Council is seeking applications for its Executive Director position. See People, Places, pg 3, for further information on this position. ☞

## Report to Judicial Council: Coordination Needed in Cases Involving Families

**E**nhanced coordination among the various classes of courts in Georgia is needed to address problems created by overlapping court jurisdiction in cases involving children and families. A report prepared by UGA's Institute of Government found that families can be vulnerable to conflicting information caused by lack of coordination among courts.

Ms. Karen Baynes, author of the report, presented these findings to the Judicial Council of Georgia at its August 2003 meeting.

### *Protocols Needed*

"A single family may be involved in more than one class of court at the same time. For example, an incident of alleged child abuse or neglect may be referred to juvenile court; there is a related criminal action in state court; and a child custody issue in superior court. Unless there is a protocol or agreement established between the courts, the overlapping jurisdiction may only be discovered by happenstance," the report said.

Ms. Baynes noted that legislation has created confusion. Guardianship applications can be

filed in either probate or juvenile court. Juvenile courts have concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in custody and child support cases and proceedings to terminate

parental rights.

State courts, magistrate courts and municipal courts may consider matters that lead children into foster care or juvenile court, such as domestic violence, child abuse, contributing to the delinquency of a

minor, and others.

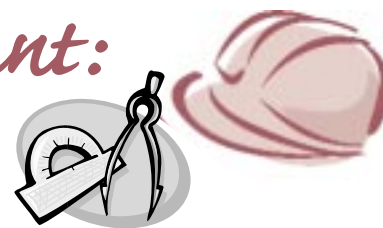
**"A single family may be involved in more than one class of court at the same time ... Unless there is a protocol or agreement established between the courts, the overlapping jurisdiction may only be discovered by happenstance"**

### *Recommendations*

The report recommends that the Administrative Office of the Courts pursue ways to provide enhanced support to courts serving children and their families by bringing the various classes of courts, their councils and the other service-providing entities into a formalized structure for communication and problem-solving. Such a task force would provide needed coordination and children will be less likely to fall through the cracks between each class of court," the report states. The full report can be viewed on the AOC website at <http://www.georgiacourts.org/aoc/augjcagenda.pdf> ☞

## From Our Facilities Consultant:

# Making the Most of a SPLOST ...



**Judson S. Bryant, Jr., A.I.A.**

### *Has the Gravy Train left the Station?*

Since the introduction of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST), counties throughout the state have enjoyed the ability to provide for capital projects without property tax increases. In many instances, SPLOST's have been approved by the same voters who rejected property tax-supported General Obligation Bonds. With a SPLOST funding, the tax burden is spread across all consumers, resident or otherwise, and allows counties to improve public facilities while limiting the affect on residents.

Counties such as Chatham, Forsyth, Hall and Troup that enjoy a substantial tourist industry have been able to construct more public facilities at less cost per permanent resident than could have been expected with property tax increases. But counties should not expect great benefit with little effort.

State projections of sale tax revenues have dropped ten percent since September 11, 2001. Poor planning and unrealistic expectations have left many projects underfunded. Counties that have operated on the assumption that sales tax extensions will be rubber-stamped by voters have been faced with a growing constituency wanting to know why current projects are

unfinished. Much needs to change in the way SPLOST projects are conceived, managed and funded if the voters can be expected to continue to support the Golden Goose.

### **Master Planning**

Three critical questions must be answered by any county thinking about a SPLOST.

- Of all capital projects needed by the county which ones are most critical, required within five years and fundable by a five-year sales tax revenue stream?
- Should the county "pay as you go" or borrow against the revenue stream?
- Is the project list understood and supported by the voters?

Defining critical capital projects, funding methodology and project packaging for voters must be completed to establish project size, location(s), budgets and insure passage of the SPLOST.

### **Needs Analysis**

Project size is determined by a comprehensive needs analysis. The needs analysis should roughly define the departments to be housed, the square footage allotted for each department, the relationships among departments and the special functions of each department.

In Henry County, for example, the needs analysis yielded a court facility program for specific limited jurisdiction courts and associated clerk and prosecution functions. In Troup County, the antiquated courthouse was found to be inadequate for current and future needs. The needs analysis yielded a new judicial facility housing all courts, certain court-related operations of the Sheriff's Department, prosecutors, and court records. In both counties, collateral functional requirements were also included. Public parking facilities, inmate holding, conference rooms, storage and jury operations were all identified as needs.

The needs study should not be limited by projected cost of construction. Demographic data, case-load information, and factors affecting growth of each department should be analyzed for periods of not less than fifteen years. Once this projection is completed, construction cost estimates and land acquisition costs using projects of similar size and complexity can be developed. The master plan can be implemented in stages, if construction costs will exceed anticipated revenues. This was the case in Henry County where the rapidly expanding population, and increasing caseloads of the courts far exceeded the revenue stream of a given sales tax referendum. Consequently, the development plan called for a facility that was in keeping with funds made

continued on pg 9



## SPLOST cont.

available by the SPLOST while designing a package with flexibility and expansion in mind.

### Cost Projections

Costing for projects should not be limited to simple estimates of construction costs. Architectural and engineering fees usually run between six to eight percent of estimated construction costs. Boundary surveys and topographical information required by the construction team can be estimated at one to one and one half percent of construction costs. If program management services are secured, the county should budget an additional 3% of the total cost of construction. Materials testing and other fees should be budgeted at a minimum of two percent. All costs must be identified and chargeable against specific projects to define how much actual building can be afforded. (See table below.)

In the estimate below, the Total Program Costs is almost fourteen percent more than the actual cost to build the project. There are other project delivery methodologies including Design/Build that purport to lower Total Program Costs. The point in the example is the obligation in the pre-SPLOST planning process to identify all costs for budgeting. ⚖

**Judson Bryant** is Facilities Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts. Mr. Bryant is available to work with judges, court administrators, and county personnel to determine local facility needs and consult on architectural design of judges' chambers, courtrooms, jury rooms, etc. To request architectural services contact Marla Moore or David Ratley at the AOC, 404-656-5171.

*To be continued in the next issue of the Georgia Courts Journal.*

## Building Project Costs

Projected costs for a standard public sector building:

Hard Building Costs .....	\$6,000,000.00
Architectural and Engineering Fees	
7% of Hard Building Costs .....	\$ 420,000.00
Topographical and Soils Testing	
1.5% of Hard Building Costs .....	\$ 90,000.00
Material Testing and Other Fees	
2% of Hard Building Costs .....	\$ 120,000.00
Construction Cost Sub Total .....	\$6,630,000.00
Program Management Services	
3% of Construction Costs .....	\$ 198,900.00
<b>TOTAL COSTS .....</b>	<b>\$6,828,900.00</b>

## Protected Health Information and the Courts

The federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (or "HIPAA") was enacted in 1996. Under the law, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was authorized to promulgate standards for assuring the privacy of protected health information (or "PHI").

The judicial community should be aware of HIPAA standards. The regulations do contain a provision for disclosure of health information for judicial and administrative hearings in specified circumstances.

General information on HIPAA can be found at the website of the US Department of Health & Human Services, at <http://www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/>. Additionally, the National Center for State Courts website, <http://www.ncsconline.org>, contains a white paper on the topic as it pertains to courts. ⚖

*The information contained within this article is drawn from the websites and white paper aforementioned as well as from Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, as amended (45 CFR Parts 160 and 164).*

# 2003-2004 Georgia Courts Directory Corrections

*Please note these corrections and additions.*

## **SUPERIOR COURT**

### Atlanta Circuit

Judge Constance C. Russell  
T5705 Justice Center Tower

### Augusta Circuit

Judge Michael N. Annis  
530 Greene Street, Suite 312  
Augusta, GA 30911  
706-821-2837

### Towaliga Circuit

Judge William A. Fears  
Butts County Courthouse  
26 Third Street  
Jackson, GA 30233  
770-775-8205

## **SENIOR JUDGES**

Justice Richard Bell  
225 E. Ponce de Leon Avenue  
Decatur, GA 30030

Judge Clarence L. Peeler, Jr.  
417 Clairemont, #218  
Decatur, GA 30030-5500

## **STATE COURT**

### Fulton County

Add: Judge Craig Schwall  
*Delete from Fulton Magistrate Court*

### Hall County

Add: Judge Bernard E. Roberts, III  
*Delete from Hall Magistrate Court*

## **JUVENILE COURT**

### Clayton Circuit

Judge Steven C. Teske  
steve.teske@co.clayton.ga.us

### Paulding Circuit

Judge Sandra W. Miller  
FAX 770-505-3867  
smiller@paulding.gov

### Stone Mountain Circuit

Add: Assoc. Judge Linda Bratton  
Haynes  
3631 Camp Circle  
Decatur, GA 30032-1399  
404-294-2916  
lbhaynes@co.dekalb.ga.us

## **PROBATE COURT**

### Gilmer County

Delete: Judge Margaret E. Huff

Add: Acting Judge Anita Mullins

## **MAGISTRATE COURT**

### Early County

Delete: Judge Melodie Anderson

Add: Judge Robin M. Altman

### Fulton County

Judge Chong Joo Kim  
230 Peachtree Street, Suite 1800  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-525-2500/F 521-1303

Add:

Judge Franklin N. Biggins  
Suite 500  
1401 Peachtree Street, NE  
Atlanta, GA 30309-3000  
404-885-6655/F 885-6647

Judge Sterling Eaves  
1409 N. Highland Avenue, Ste. L  
Atlanta, GA 30306  
404-724-0886

Judge Jane Morrison  
The Candler Building, Suite 422  
127 Peachtree Street  
Atlanta, GA 30303  
404-221-0115/F 221-0116

### Gwinnett County

Add: Judge James A. Hinkle  
Gwinnett Justice & Admin. Center  
75 Langley Drive  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045-6900  
770-822-8081/F 822-8075

### Houston County

Judge John W. Geiger  
PO Box 888  
Perry, GA 31069

### Jackson County

Delete: Judge Glenn H. Evans

### Johnson County

Delete: Judge Paul Douglas

### Lamar County

Delete: Judge Denise Connell

Add: Judge Richard Bryan Stokes  
205 Spencer Street  
Barnesville, GA 30204  
770-358-2069

### Lumpkin County

Judge William "Jeff" Lowe  
FAX 706-867-8643

### Randolph County

Judge Linda Palumbo  
FAX 229-732-5635  
*also Municipal Court of Shellman*

### Spalding County

Add: Judge June Rainey  
301 Tomochichi Road  
Griffin, GA 30223  
770-228-0121

### Tattnall County

Add: Judge Sharon Fincher  
PO Box 513  
Reidsville, GA 30453  
912-557-4375/F 557-3136

# Juvenile Court Judges Participate in Children's Summit

**T**en Juvenile Court judges participated in the First Lady's Summit on Our Children organized by Mary Perdue, wife of Governor Sonny Perdue. The summit was a statewide event designed to energize community resources on behalf of Georgia's abused and neglected children. Many of these children are supervised by the state's juvenile courts until they are placed in safe and permanent homes.

The Summit was anchored in Atlanta and held simultaneously in Tifton, Columbus, Savannah, Augusta, Macon, Dalton, and Toccoa.

Invited participants included: Judge Peggy H. Walker, Douglas Circuit, President of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges; Judge Douglas J. Flanagan, Augusta Circuit; Judge Michael Key, Coweta Circuit; Judge John W. Beam, Jr., Eastern Circuit; Chief Judge Thomas J. Matthews, Macon

Circuit; Judge Tom Rawlings, Middle Circuit; Judge Joanna Temple, Mountain Circuit; Judge Robin S. Nash, Stone Mountain Circuit; Judge Warner L. Kennon, Sr., Chattahoochee Circuit; and Judge Holli G. Martin, Tifton Circuit. The judges described their concerns about the child welfare system at the local and state levels.

The AOC, through the Supreme Court of Georgia Child Placement Project, provided organizational support for the August 27 event. ☛

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## Courts Directory Corrections cont.

*Please note these corrections and additions.*

### **MAGISTRATE COURT cont.**

#### Walton County

Judge Catherine "Kitty" Yarbrough  
Chief Magistrate

#### Worth County

Add: Judge Michael R. Carter, Sr.  
542 Porter's Corner Road  
Sylvester, GA 31791  
229-776-5082

### **MUNICIPAL COURT**

#### Alpharetta

Delete: Judge Roy C. Roberts  
Add: Judge Donald W. Schaefer  
Judge Barry L. Zimmerman

#### Forest Park

Judge John Clayton Davis  
1561 Hwy. 42 North  
McDonough, GA 30523

#### Kennesaw

Judge Donald W. Singleton  
2727 Paces Ferry Road, Suite 1710  
Atlanta, GA 30339

#### Marietta, Woodstock

Judge Diane M. Busch  
800 Kennesaw Ave., Suite 400  
Marietta, GA 30060  
770-426-4619/F 4726-4846

#### McDonough

Add: Judge Ernest Blount  
  
Judge Christopher Chapman  
369 Macon Street  
McDonough, GA 30253

#### St. Mary's

Delete: Judge John S. Meyers  
Add: Judge Harold R. Moroz

### **COURT ADMINISTRATORS**

Gwinnett County: Superior, State,  
and Magistrate Court  
Delete: Arthur V. O'Neill

Add: Philip M. Boudewyns

#### Fulton County Juvenile Court

Michael N. Wilson  
FAX 404-730-6633  
*Also Juvenile Court Clerk*

### **JUVENILE COURT CLERKS**

#### Clayton County

Delete: Nancy H. Pitts  
Add: Robin Austin

#### Glynn County

Delete: Karen A. Manning  
Add: Phillip S. Corbitt  
912-554-7046

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423 Bedford Drive

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# Court of Appeals Offers Docket Online

**T**he Georgia Court of Appeals has launched a web-based docket inquiry system that can be easily searched by court officials, lawyers or members of the public who want to track a case before the court. This efficient and free new service can be accessed at the court's website, [www.gaappeals.us](http://www.gaappeals.us)

The docket, dating back to January 2003, can be searched by appellate case number, trial court case number or a word from the style of the case (i.e., party name). The site displays docketing information, filings and motions related to a case, including court actions and final judgment, as it moved through

trial courts to the Court of Appeals. In addition, it shows the disposition of cases to which the Supreme Court has granted certiorari. Attorney information is also available.



The Court of Appeals Docket Search is located at [www.gaappeals.us/docket/](http://www.gaappeals.us/docket/)

John Ruggeri, the Court's information technology project manager, noted that the system was developed in-house with the help of the Court's web master, Bob McAteer. The inquiry system uses Novell NetWare open-source software, thus reducing the cost to taxpayers.

"With increasing caseloads in the Court — the number of cases filed in the court calendar year 2003 increased by 6% — this application should prove useful in assisting the court to continue to provide rapid access to information while reducing the number of telephone calls that must be answered by Court staff," said Mr. Ruggeri. ☞



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*Director*

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